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FILED
OCT 7 1949
CHARLES ELMORE CROPLEY
CLERK

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

No. 248

JOHN HOWARD LAWSON,

Petitioner,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

No. 249

DALTON TRUMBO,

Petitioner,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO FILE BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE AND BRIEF

TO THE HONORABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES:

The petitioners, Conference of Studio Unions, Los Angeles, Calif.; UOPWA Executive Board, Los Angeles, Calif.; Independent Progressive Party, Altadena, Calif.; United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of Am., Local 1421, Los Angeles, Calif.; Congress of American Women, Los Angeles Chapter, Los Angeles, Calif.; Hollywood Women's Coun-

cil, Los Angeles, Calif.; Southern California U.E. Conference, Los Angeles, Calif.; UOPWA Local 9, Los Angeles, Calif.; California Labor School, Los Angeles, Calif.; L. A. County Negro Democratic Club, Los Angeles, Calif.; Slavic Council of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif.; Carpenters Local No. 634, AFL, Los Angeles, Calif., pray leave of this Court to file this Brief Amici Curiae in the above-entitled case.

Petitioner organizations deem it imperative in the interest of the preservation of liberty and democracy in the nation that this Court grant certiorari in the cases here and resolve the grave questions of constitutional law presented, particularly those touching freedom of speech, press, thought, association and assembly. Petitioner organizations are deeply and vitally interested in those issues of law and the preservation of those liberties.

Petitioner organizations are voluntary trade unions and voluntary social and political organizations representing many thousands of Americans.

As the public records of the Committee reveal and as the trial records in the cases herein confirm, the House Un-American Activities Committee has long pretended the power to police the thought of all organizations and individuals with which its members disagree. It has characterized as "subversive" all ideas distasteful to it and has undertaken to silence and suppress such ideas by intimidating, maligning and persecuting the advocates thereof. Because of this, the cases here are not limited in significance to John Howard Lawson and Dalton Trumbo, nor even to the motion picture industry; they are of significance as well to the nation generally and to petitioner organizations particularly.

Censorship, like incurable cancer, cannot be stopped once it obtains a foothold. If John Howard Lawson and Dalton Trumbo may be punished by the Committee for entertaining "dangerous thoughts," next week or next month it may be the

turn of one or more of the individuals or organizations represented in the filing of this amici curiae brief. In the shadow of this threat, freedom of speech and thought are drained of life.

> ". . . The power of the licensor . . . is pernicious not merely by reason of the censure of particular comments but by reason of the threat to censure comments on matters of public concern. It is not merely the sporadic abuse of power by the censor but the pervasive threat inherent in its very existence that constitutes the danger to freedom of discussion."—*Thornhill v. Alabama*, 310 U.S. 88, 97.

WILLIAM L. STANDARD,
Counsel.